

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD, CASABLANCA

REFERENCE: RABAT 2838

1. IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT, BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REITERATE U.S. POLICY ON USE OF MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL AS INTERNAL GUARDS OF OUR MAJOR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS SYSTEM, BEGUN IN 1948, WAS PRIMARILY ESTABLISHED TO MEET NATIONAL SECURITY STANDARDS FOR PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT. IT WAS NEVER DESIGNED TO REPLACE OR ABROGATE HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT PREMISES OR PERSONNEL.

2. WITH INCREASING TERRORIST THREAT WE HAVE OBTAINED GREATER AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND POSITIONS TO EXTEND INTERNAL GUARDS TO MORE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS. WE MUST MEET THIS THREAT BY INCREASING THE INTERNAL SECURITY POSTURE OF OUR FACILITIES AS WELL AS ASKING FOR INCREASED PROTECTION FROM HOST GOVERNMENT AS APPROPRIATE. IT IS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS APPROACH THAT WE WISH TO ASSIGN MARINE GUARDS TO

CASABLANCA AND IT IS IN THIS SITUATION THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED INCREASED POLICE COVERAGE AND PROTECTION FROM THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH WE SHOULD REAFFIRM OUR APPRECIATION.

3. BY THE SAME TOKEN, IF THE MARINE ASSIGNMENT DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, THEN OUR ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO RELY ON THE MOROCCAN POLICE PROTECTION. WE DO NOT HIRE CLEARED U.S. CIVILIANS AS GUARDS, AND THE ADDITION OF A LOCAL GUARD DOES NOT APPEAR NECESSARY SINCE THE POLICE PROTECTION ON THE PERIMETER IS ADEQUATE.

4. AS A FINAL GESTURE YOU MAY AGREE THAT WE WILL ASSIGN THE MARINES TO CASABLANCA IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING WITHOUT UNIFORMS. SISCO

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